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Saturday, September 4, 2010

THE MORNING NEWS

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Aruba Chamber of Commerce meets the Press



Leo Maduro



Laureen Dix

Administrators and board members of Aruba's Kamer van Koophandel (KvK) - Chamber of Commerce met with local media on Thursday to update the public on a number of important issues affecting commerce and the state of

the economy in Aruba. Representing the KvK were Laureen Dix, Leo Maduro and Vice-President of the Board Mahawat Kahn.

The meeting began with a presentation by Leo Maduro regarding a Social Dialogue between the island government and a number of financial and social institutions. KvK representatives principally discussed the findings regarding the future financial burden of the AOV-National Social Security System and the AZV, Aruba's National Health Insurance and what it may signify for the employer and consumer.

Presently, Aruba has 16,000 retirees collecting their public pension, which is funded by deductions from salaries and a large portion by business owners. It is expected, with the enormous increase of the island population since achieving "Status Aparte," this number will increase to 36,000 over the next 20 years. The government is considering the gradual implementation of regulations to establish an augment pension fund for workers

in the private sector; deduction of 1% of the salary will be matched by employers and will extend over a 3 year period for a total of 6%. The KvK has also recommended the reduction of import tax on goods which allow the utilization of "clean energy" such as solar panels and windmills, from 22% to 2%, allowing the public to more readily contribute to Aruba's independence from fossil fuels on an individual basis.

KvK administrators remind the public that the future will also necessarily require financial sacrifice, particularly in regard to AZV, the National Health Program. Employees and employer can expect their required contribution to be increased; as will be the ceiling salary for deductions - from Afl 54,500 to Afl 65,000. For more information and details of this Social Dialogue, visit the KvK website.

Laureen Dix came forward to announce upcoming events regarding the 80th anniversary of the Aruba KvK which was founded on September 8, 1930. The KvK will close at noon this coming Wednesday, September 8, for a private celebration. During the month of October, the KvK will conduct events for the public, including their 17th Annual Business Dinner and a special Innovation Conference at the Renaissance Convention Center on Friday, October 29, which is open to the public with no entrance fee.

The Innovation Conference

will feature a number of informative and interesting presentations for existing and potential entrepreneurs. Individuals such as Economist Dr. Ryan Peterson, Dean of the Tourism and Hospitality Management Faculty of the University of Aruba will populate a panel discussion lead by Edward Erasmus. Various areas of interest, such as how the world economy effect doing business on Aruba, how best to take advantage of modern energy technology along with opportunities for innovation will be the subject of lectures and various displays. Opening hours of the confer-



Mahawat Kahn.

ence are from 1:30 to 6:00 p.m.; visit the KvK website, www.arubachamber.com for updates on speakers and presentations, or to participate in the event.

by Rosalie Klein

Yoani Sanchez named IPI press freedom hero



For story see page 2

Interpol launches hunt for fugitives in Americas

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States and several other countries have launched a new operation to hunt down and capture international fugitives wanted by Interpol in the Americas, US officials said yesterday.

The initiative, called "Operation Far Away," is "an intelligence-driven operation de-

signed to target, locate and arrest criminal aliens believed to be hiding in the United States and in other Western Hemisphere countries," US Immigration and Customs Enforcement said. It is expected throughout the month.

Interpol will coordinate the operation with participation from Bahamas, Barbados, Bo-

livia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Netherlands Antilles, Peru and the US territory of Puerto Rico.

In 2009, Interpol issued more than 5,000 "red notices" for wanted criminals or suspects.

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Hurricane Earl glances North Carolina, races up US coast

KILL DEVIL HILLS, North Carolina (AFP) – A weakened but still nasty Hurricane Earl lashed the US East Coast yesterday with heavy winds and high surf, triggering warnings clear up to Canada after dealing a glancing blow to North Carolina.

An angry surf eroded beaches and caused sporadic power outages at the popular Carolina barrier island destinations of Kitty Hawk and Kill Devil Hills, and storm surges flooded some roadways, but Earl otherwise failed to bring about disaster.

While major swells rolled along much of the US eastern seaboard, millions of people in communities from Virginia up to Maine braced for the storm, although the National Hurricane Center said winds had weakened to near 85 miles (140 kilometers) per hour as the storm lost some steam churning northward over cooler waters.



Scott Kerns kayaks down flooded Hwy 12 in NC yesterday. Sound side flooding from Hurricane Earl flooded much of the Outer Banks in the early morning hours yesterday.

Earl was now a category one hurricane, the lowest level on the NHC's five-category Saffir-Simpson scale, although it was still several hundred miles across. "Earl is expected to remain a large hurricane as it approaches southeastern New England," the NHC cautioned in a bulletin.

The storm was forecast to skim Massachusetts, including the popular resort areas of

Cape Cod, Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard, with hurricane-force winds just after midnight and spread to Maine before possibly making landfall today in Nova Scotia, Canada, either as a weakened hurricane or a tropical storm.

Forecasters were also closely tracking the path of Tropical Storm Fiona about 245 miles (400 km) south of Bermuda.

Fidel Castro leads first mass rally in four years

HAVANA, Cuba (AFP) – Cuban revolutionary leader Fidel Castro yesterday completed a return to public life, leading his first mass rally since an illness forced him from the presidency four years ago.

Castro, 84, wearing his trademark olive green uniform -- but without any military insignias -- addressed thousands of students and others at the University of Havana, where he warned about the threat of nuclear war should the United States or Israel attack Iran.

For years after intestinal surgery that forced him to hand power to his younger brother Raul in 2006, Fidel Castro hardly made so much as a public appearance.

But in recent weeks he has emerged from seclusion, mak-

ing at least eight public appearances in three weeks, culminating August 8 with an address before the country's National Assembly -- his first in four years.

Of late, Castro's attentions have shifted from Cuba's domestic scene and the ongoing tensions between the Communist isle and the United States.

Instead, the aging revolutionary has begun to warn of a "nuclear holocaust" and now calls for a world free of weapons of mass destruction.

His Friday address again raised the specter of nuclear war, calling for "the disappearance of nuclear weapons," but Castro also sounded the alarm over climate change, which he said "threatens human existence."

7.0 magnitude earthquake shakes New Zealand

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AFP) – A powerful 7.0 magnitude earthquake rocked New Zealand's second largest city Christchurch just before dawn today, causing widespread damage and panic among residents, but no serious injuries.

Locals ran out onto the streets in fear after the quake, to find roads blocked by the facades of buildings which crashed down and crushed parked vehicles.

Electricity was cut off in much of the city, while roads were littered with glass from broken windows.

The quake, initially recorded at 7.4 magnitude, struck at 04:35 a.m. and was centered at a depth of 16.1 kilometres (10.0 miles) some

30 kilometre west of Christchurch, the US Geological Survey said.

Many people suffered minor injuries from objects falling in their homes. Hospitals said there were no reports of any serious injuries, but doctors were on standby because of the intensity of the quake and the extent of the damage.

Police closed the central city as looters targeted damaged shops, police Inspector Mike Coleman said.

A swarm of aftershocks followed and police said damage was widespread throughout Christchurch, with electricity supplies cut to about half of the city of about 340,000 and sewer lines damaged.

Cuban blogger Sanchez named IPI press freedom hero

VIENNA, Austria (AFP) – Cuban blogger Yoani Sanchez was named World Press Freedom Hero by media watchdog IPI yesterday, for her defiance of press restrictions and her commitment to free speech in her country.

"Sanchez's tremendously important work provides a glimpse into what is otherwise a closed world," Alison Bethel McKenzie, director of the Vienna-based International Press Institute, said in a statement.

She "represents a future where the power of the Internet can be harnessed to promote free speech."

Sanchez began a blog, Generation Y, in 2007 that now counts over one million readers. However, access to the site was banned in Cuba in 2008.

To bypass this, Sanchez now emails her comments to friends abroad who post her notes on the Internet.

In 2008, Time Magazine in the United States named her one of the 100 most influential people. The following year, her blog was listed as one of the 25 best blogs of the year by the magazine.

Harassed and beaten up on separate occasions, Sanchez has noted on her blog that she is constantly watched by state security agents.

But she refuses to stop writing: "If you are insulted by the mediocre, the opportunists, if you are slandered by the employees of the powerful but dying machinery, take it as a compliment," she wrote.

IPI named this year eight World Press Freedom Heroes, from Sri Lanka and Gambia to Turkey and South Africa, bringing the total to 60 as it celebrates its 60th anniversary.

The institute holds its annual world congress in Vienna and Bratislava on September 11-14.

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As of January 1, 2011

"Naturalization test are required to be done both in the Papiamento and the Dutch language

ORANJESTAD - As of January 1, 2011 all foreigners residing on Aruba who wish to apply for an application for naturalization as Dutch citizen, must pass an exam both in the Papiamento and Dutch language. To file an application for naturalization as a Dutch citizen the candidates must first do a naturalization test. That test will be conducted here by the Exam Bureau. At present, the applicant has the choice to do the test either in the Papiamento or in the Dutch language.

As of January 1, 2011, candidates must now pass the exam, both in Papiamento and in Dutch. The candidate must answer key questions about the Aruban community and constitutional affairs in Papiamento. In addition, the candidate will be tested in his proficiency in Papiamento. Moreover, the candidate will be tested on his dominance of the Dutch language. Both parts of the language assessment will test four skills: reading, listening, writing and speaking.

The change in naturalization tests is because of a modification in the Kingdom Act on Dutch citizenship. The possibility to choose between an exam in Papiamento or Dutch expires. Instead, the two languages will be examined.

Terms of naturalization

Applications for naturalization on Aruba must be submitted at the Cabinet of the Governor. Prior to the naturalization petition, candidates must have passed the naturalization test at the exam Bureau. Candidates who have passed the test will receive a Naturalization Certificate."

The Naturalization Certifi-

cate must be presented when filling for naturalization at the Cabinet of the Governor. In addition, candidates must comply with a number of other general and specific conditions.

It is particularly important that candidates meet the requirements of continuous residence on the basis of a residence permit. In general, they must have resided at the least five years continuously on the island. Residence.

For a candidate who is married to a Dutch citizen it is required that that person is married and living together with their spouse for three years continuously.

In addition the candidate, at the time of filing for the naturalization application and later, when in the Netherlands it is decided on the naturalization application, must possess a valid residence permit.

For more information on the conditions for naturalization, visit the Office of the Governor's website: www.kabga.aw under Consular Affairs.

Last opportunity to test in one language only

Only this year (2010) it is still possible for candidates to file a naturalization application with the opportunity to do the naturalization test in Papiamento or in Dutch.

Candidates who already have done the naturalization test, but failed on one or more subjects and candidates who wish to do the test for the first time are advised to contact the Exam Bureau. The Exam Bureau this year only, again will provide the opportunity to fully test or re-do the exam in Papiamento. This is scheduled to take place in October 2010.

Submit application for naturalization

Candidates who successfully passed their test in the Papiamento or Dutch language and received their "Naturalization Certificate" must file for a naturalization application no later than December 30, 2010 at the Office of the Governor. As mentioned above, it is important that all the other requirements for naturalization are met.

Candidates already in possession of the "Naturalization Certificate" and whom have met all the other requirements, are recommended to submit their application to the Cabinet of the Governor as soon as possible. For an appointment with the Cabinet of the Governor, readers may visit the website: www.kabga.aw under Consular Affairs.

Mrs. Valeri Belon named consul general on Aruba

ORANJESTAD -- A former Fairbanksan with a distinguished career in the U.S. Foreign Service has been named consul general for the U.S. in the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba.

Valerie Belon, a 1983 graduate of Lathrop High School, is the daughter of Fairbanksans Al Belon, a retired geophysicist from the Geophysical Institute and Shirley Belon, a retired public health nurse.

Valerie Belon has a sister in Fairbanks, Nancy Sonafrank, and a brother in Texas, Dennis. She has a 4-year-old daughter, Lucy.

After completing high school about 30 years ago, she went to college at Princeton and graduate school at Stanford and UCLA. She worked in the office of the late Sen. Ted Stevens in Washington, D.C.

In her most recent job in the State Department, she was the Senior Desk Officer for the Netherlands and Luxembourg, but she has held a variety of other positions in such places as Belize, the Congo, Panama City and Paris. She is fluent in Spanish and French.

Mrs. Belon assumed the consul general position in the Caribbean last week. She will be the senior U.S. representative during the process this fall in which five of the islands will be creating new government relationships with the Netherlands.

Governmen: Dutch rightist coalition talks fail

THE HAGUE, The Netherlands (AFP) - Negotiations to form a rightist Dutch coalition government with the backing of anti-Islam MP Geert Wilders have floundered, the government information service said yesterday.

Negotiations led by Ivo Opstelten, an official appointed by Queen Beatrix to examine coalition options, "have failed to yield any result," it said in a statement three months after June national elections narrowly won by the pro-business VVD with Wilders' Party for Freedom (PVV) in third place.

The VVD led by Mark Rutte started official negotiations on August 9 on the formation of a rightist coalition with the Christian Democratic Action of Maxime Verhagen.

They agreed to explore the option of forming a so-called "minority coalition" of which Wilders' PVV would not be a formal part but would pro-

vide majority support to pass policy on pre-agreed issues through parliament.

The VVD and CDA won a combined 52 seats in the 150-member Dutch Parliament in June 9 elections. Wilders' PVV nearly tripled its seats to 24 -- enough to provide the 76-seat majority the VVD and CDA would require to pass laws.

Analysts have explained that such a "minority government" system would have seen Wilders' party left out of the cabinet but consulted on all policy.

The CDA, which led the previous four governments and had initially refused to negotiate with the PVV, later agreed to talks despite concerns from some party members about Wilders' anti-Islam views.

Wilders calls Islam fascist and wants to stop Muslim immigration and the building of new mosques in a bid to stop the "Islamisation" of the Netherlands.



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For an exciting taste of Aruba and cultural experience, the Aruba Culinary Festival takes place on the first Mon-

day of every month at the scenic outdoor plaza of Divi Links (next to Clubhouse).

The first installment will

Chavez defends his record on crime in Venezuela



percent to 9,944 murders per year. Non-governmental groups say that figure rose to between 13,000 and 16,000 murders last year.

Chavez often accuses his political opponents of stoking voters' fears of crime through propaganda in an attempt to tarnish the achievements of his socialist "revolution."

He says the creation of a new police force and other anti-crime measures have born fruit, and government officials were angered by a New York Times article last week that said the capital Caracas was more dangerous than Baghdad, Iraq.

The government has not published official murder statistics in years, but opposition parties in South America's biggest oil exporter echo non-governmental organizations that say it is one of the world's most dangerous places outside war zones.

"It is not true Venezuela is one of the most insecure countries in the world, nor is it true there is more violence here than 11 years ago," Chavez said in a televised speech.

Figures from the police's forensic science unit show that between 1998 and 2005, homicides increased by about 120

be held on Monday, September 6, 2010 from 6 – 9 p.m. Restaurants of the Aruba Gastronomic Association (AGA) will be serving their delicious signature dishes and Arion Wine Company will be pouring its fine vintages. Local artists and artisans and live music will lend an authentic Aruban touch while Tattoo, Mi Dushi and Kukoo Kunuku add to the fun.

Savor the international flavors of AGA and Divi restaurants such as Amazônia, Aqua Grill, Driftwood, French Steak House, Gasparito, Giorgio's, La Trattoria El Faro Blanco, Mulligan's and Windows on Aruba. Learn more about food and wine, compliments of a professional chef and a wine specialist.

Admission of US\$ 15.00 (awg. 25,-) includes 4 food tickets plus 2 wine tickets (or 4 soft drink tickets). The Aruba Culinary Festival, perfect for locals as well as tourists, is sponsored by Divi Resorts and the Aruba Gastronomic Association. Don't miss it!

For more information, contact Aruba Gastronomic Association at 586 1266 or 592 6244.

"It is incredible ... to say what the opposition keep repeating every day, that Venezuela is more insecure than Iraq," a visibly annoyed Chavez said, without providing official figures to rebut the ones from non-governmental groups that have made front-page news.

Analysts expect his ruling socialist party to retain a majority at this month's polls, but say the opposition is forecast to win at least one-third of the seats in parliament.

Meanwhile, an electoral official accused President Hugo Chavez and his allies of breaking campaign laws by using state-run media to berate rivals and praise friends ahead of this month's legislative elections.

Vicente Diaz, one of the National Election Council's five directors, said Chavez is violating legislation prohibiting elected officials from using their posts to promote candidacies.

Chavez has ignored the law, which also bans the use of state media and public funds for campaigning purposes, Diaz said.

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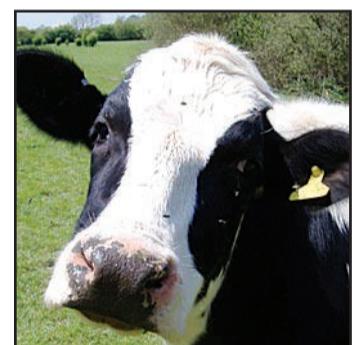
New case of mad cow disease in Holland

THE NETHERLANDS -- A 10-year-old cow in the Netherlands has tested positive for BSE, more commonly known as "mad cow" disease, the first such result in more than two years, the Dutch government said yesterday.

The government ministry responsible for food quality said the animal tested positive for the brain-wasting disease bovine spongiform encephalopathy at a slaughterhouse. It was the first positive test for BSE in the country since May 2008, the ministry said in a statement.

"This fits the expectation of the Central Veterinary Institute that the Netherlands in the coming years will encounter an infected cow now and again," a ministry spokesman said, adding that the cow's meat was withdrawn from the food chain after a first positive test, while a second test confirmed the result.

All cows sent to slaughter in the country are tested and held aside for the results before their meat enters the system. More than 400,000 cows were tested last year without incident. Because of those rules, the spokesman said, no

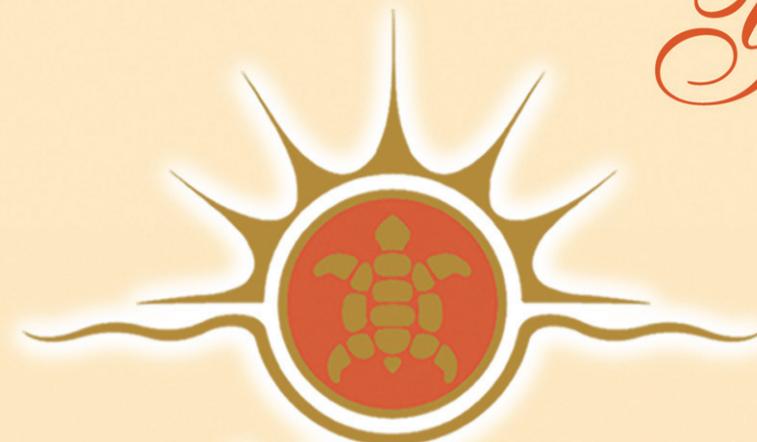


extra precautions will be required in general or on the diseased cow's herd or farm in particular.

Cattle have been tested for BSE in the Netherlands since 2001, while since 1997 the most infectious organs, the brains and spinal marrow have been collected and destroyed to prevent infection.

Mad cow disease is of particular concern because it has been known to cause a related brain-wasting disease in humans who have eaten contaminated meat.

Three people have died in the Netherlands from variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease after eating meat from a BSE positive cow. The last reported death was in January 2009. Deaths were also reported in 2005 and 2006.



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Police force representative follows course in Holland to broaden knowledge in the field of K-9 unit



Recently, Mr. Coffie, the K-9 expert of the Police Force, gave a detailed explanation to the High Commissioner on the intensive course he followed in Holland. There he received training in dog handling. The course was held at the 'Specialistische Honden' unit in Neunspeet, The Netherlands.

During the training Dutch experts tested the operation capacity of the handler as

well as that of the dog, and were surprised by how well Aruba performed. The experts saw the potential in the Aruban candidate and advised to follow an advanced training in the near future as trainer. This creates the possibility for Aruba to start with its own K-9 unit department where the unit can assist in different police tasks on Aruba as well as in the Caribbean.

The Police Force High Commissioner expressed his gratitude towards Mr. Coffie for his excellent representation and took notice of his suggestion to amplify the K-9 department in the future .

Photos show Mr. Coffie showing off his course certificate and Mr. Coffie giving explanations to members of the management team on the course he followed in the Netherlands.



Schedule for the week of
Sep 2 - Sep 8

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matinee: 12:00 - 3:45
late show: 7:30 - 11:00 **PG-13 NEW**

PIRANHA 3D
daily: 6:30 - 8:30
matinee: 11:00
late show: 11:00 **R NEW**

NANNY MC PHEE RETURNS
daily: 6:00 - 8:45
matinee: 1:00 - 3:30
late show: 11:30 **PG**

VAMPIRE SUCK
daily: 4:00 - 6:30 - 9:00
matinee: 1:15
late show: 11:30 **PG-13**

THE EXPENDABLES
daily: 5:30 - 8:00
matinee: 12:30 - 3:00
late show: 11:00 **R**

SALT
daily: 5:15
matinee: 12:45 - 3:00
late show: 7:30 **PG-13**

EAT PRAY LOVE
daily: 7:45
matinee: 11:00
late show: 11:00 **PG-13**

CATS & DOGS GALORE 3D
daily: 4:15
matinee: 12:15 - 2:15
late show: 7:30 **PG**

AT PASEO HERENCIA

AVATAR SPECIAL EDITION 3D
daily: 7:30
matinee: 12:00 - 3:45
late show: 11:00 **PG-13 NEW**

PIRANHA 3D
daily: 4:45 - 7:00 - 9:15
matinee: 11:30 **R NEW**

CHARLIE ST: CLOUD
daily:
matinee: 1:00 - 3:30
late show: 11:30 **PG-13**

TAKERS
daily: 6:00 - 8:30
matinee:
late show: 11:00 **PG-13**

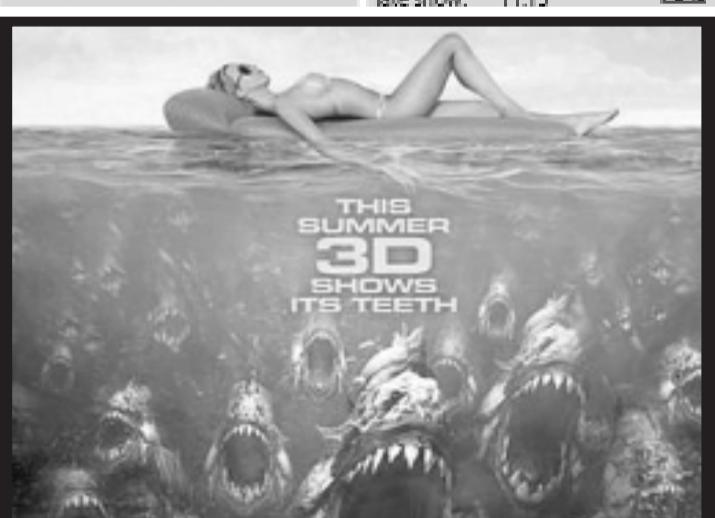
SCOTT PILGRIM VS THE WORLD
daily: 5:00
matinee: 12:00 - 3:30
late show: 11:00 **PG-13**

SALT
daily: 7:30 - 9:45
matinee:
late show: 12:00 **PG-13**

THE OTHER GUYS
daily: 4:00 - 6:30 - 9:00
matinee: 1:30
late show: 11:30 **PG-13**

STEP UP 3D
daily:
matinee: 12:00 - 2:30
late show: 11:00 **PG-13**

LOTTERY TICKET
daily: 4:00 - 6:15 - 8:45
matinee: 1:45
late show: 11:15 **PG-13**



PIRANHA 3D (2010) (SUSP/HOROR) - EVERY YEAR THE POPULATION OF SLEEPY LAKE VICTORIA EXPLODES FROM 5,000 TO 50,000 FOR SPRING BREAK, A RIOT OF SUN AND DRUNKEN FUN. BUT THIS YEAR, THERE'S SOMETHING MORE TO WORRY ABOUT THAN HANGOVERS AND COMPLAINTS FROM LOCAL OLD TIMERS; A NEW TYPE OF TERROR IS ABOUT TO BE CUT LOOSE ON LAKE VICTORIA. AFTER A SUDDEN UNDERWATER TREMOR SETS FREE SCORES OF THE PRE-HISTORIC MAN-EATING FISH, AN UNLIKELY GROUP OF STRANGERS MUST BAND TOGETHER TO STOP THEMSELVES FROM BECOMING FISH FOOD FOR THE AREA'S NEW RAZOR-TOOTHED RESIDENTS.

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Science/Tech

Toshiba recalls 41K Satellite Laptops due to overheating

Toshiba is recalling 41,000 laptops due to concerns about overheating AC adapter plugs.

Affected models include the Toshiba Satellite T135, Satellite T135D, and Satellite ProT130 notebook computers, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and its Canadian counterpart, Health Canada.

At issue is the DC-in jack, where the AC adapter plugs into the computer. In some cases, it has overheated to the point of melting the plastic base around the DC-in jack opening, the agencies said.

Toshiba Canada received 14 reports of excessive heat or smoke due to this glitch, with no reported injuries, Health Canada said. In the U.S., there were 129 reports of overheating computers, two reports of minor burn injuries, and two reports of minor property damage, according to the CPSC.

The affected devices were sold between August 2009 and August 2010.

Customers with these computers need to download the latest version of Toshiba's BIOS computer program. This will detect whether the computer is overheating and if so, it will disable the device's external power and display a message telling the user to contact Toshiba for a free repair. At this point, it won't be possible to charge the computer until it's fixed.

"Toshiba regrets any inconvenience this may have caused you," the company said in a statement.

Website tracks Copenhagen pledges

GENEVA (AFP) – Six rich economies joined a website unveiled on Friday detailing pledges in short-term aid they made at last December's climate summit, a move aimed at restoring damaged trust with developing countries.

The portal www.faststart-finance.org showed that Britain, Denmark, France, the Netherlands and Norway had so far allocated the equivalent of 3.2 billion dollars in climate funds.

Twenty-seven poorer countries are named as beneficiaries, including Bangladesh, Brazil, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Morocco and the Philippines. Details of the projects and the timescale of funding were not given.

A sixth donor, Germany, said it had promised 1.26 billion euros (1.61 billion dollars), but has yet to say how the money would be allotted.

"It will give trust that promises are being kept," Dutch Environment Minister Tineke Huizinga, who conceived the project, told reporters.

"I expect in the months to come much more countries will sign in the website."

The announcement was made on the sidelines of an informal meeting on climate finance in Geneva, gathering more than 40 countries.

The US representative at the talks, Todd Stern, said Washington would contribute to the site with a "very detailed document" setting out its estimates of country-by-country undertakings.

"From the very beginning of the year, we have been very much focussed on the visibility of fast-start financing," he said.

The commitments are part of an overall package of 30 billion dollars that rich countries declared in "fast-start"

aid for 2010, 2011 and 2012 at the Copenhagen summit to help the poor tackle global warming and its impacts.

The money was seen as a show of good faith in the troubled negotiations under the banner of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

In the long term, according to a parallel but sketchier pledge made in Copenhagen, rich countries have promised to mobilise jointly 100 billion dollars a year by 2020.

But the infighting that marred Copenhagen left scars of mistrust among developing countries.

Poorer nations are keeping a watchful eye on the fast-track finances, insisting that donors honour the Copenhagen vow that funding be "new and additional."

Suspicious are high that a big chunk of the money will come from development aid or other budgets, thus damaging poverty alleviation in order to fulfill a political commitment.

"This initiative is a step in the right direction, but the question of additional funds is essential if trust is to be rebuilt," Romain Benicchio, Oxfam's policy advisor, told AFP.

Huizinga acknowledged that the information was provided by donor countries and the new portal "will not answer that particular debate" about additional sources.

UNFCCC Executive Secretary Christiana Figueres endorsed the scheme.

She said agreeing on finance was a "golden key" to unlock success at the UNFCCC's upcoming conference in Cancun, Mexico.

The November 29-December 10 parlay aims at reviving negotiations with an eye to sealing the elusive climate treaty a year later.

HEALTH - LIVING

Get flawless skin naturally

Can you go natural and get a great looking glow? You can if you follow these five simple tips for creating the gentlest beauty regimen ever.



Avoid heavy-duty cleansers

Unlike your pots and pans, "your skin needn't be scrubbed or squeaky to be clean," says Jeannette Graf, MD, assistant professor of dermatology at New York University Medical Center. So don't overdo it. Mild, nondetergent cleansers—milks, gels, foams, or cloths—are your best bet. Scan the ingredient labels of products to see if they contain gentle, plant-derived surfactants (the prefix *coco-* equals coconut, for example; *gluco-* equals fruit sugars).

"The natural source is often hinted at in the name," says Jim Hammer, a cosmetic chemist with and product-development manager at Pharmasol Corp.

Ditch the toner

These were originally invented to restore the natural pH of skin after it had been washed with an alkaline-detergent soap. "If you're using a pH-balanced cleanser, there's no need for toner," Graf says. "It'll only dry your skin."

Make sure acid-laced products are pH-balanced. This means their pH is in

sync with skin, so "they gently remove sebum (an oily substance secreted by the skin) and makeup without stripping natural oils," Graf says. Look for the words "pH-balanced" on cleansers that contain glycolic or lactic acids and on exfoliators, she adds, because some have a low pH, which can cause dryness.

Opt for fragrance-free

Fragrance is the most common cause of skin-care-related allergic reactions. If you're sensitive, be sure to choose products that are labeled "fragrance-free." The ones that are marked "unscented" typically contain small amounts of fragrance to help mask the odors of active ingredients.

Choose multitasking moisturizers

A good day cream juggles two jobs—hydration and protection. Pick one that has plant-based moisturizers (natural oils, butters, and essential fatty acids penetrate skin better than man-made emollients like petroleum, Graf explains) and antioxidants (those from natural sources may also contain bioflavonoids and other beneficial compounds not found in synthetic versions, Hammer says), plus nonirritating physical sunblocks, like zinc oxide and titanium dioxide.

Israeli researchers develop promising new HIV treatment

JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israeli researchers have developed a new treatment for HIV that kills human cells infected with the virus and could lead to a breakthrough in treating AIDS, the Haaretz newspaper said on Friday.

Whereas current treatments focus on inhibiting the replication of the HIV virus, the new treatment destroys infected cells without damaging healthy ones, the newspaper said.

The process makes use of peptides, or short protein segments, which vastly in-

crease the replications of the virus once it enters a cell, causing the cell's self-destruction, Haaretz said, citing one of the researchers.

"The usual medications kill the virus that has entered the body during infection and the (peptide) treatment allows cells infected with the genetic load of the virus to be killed," Abraham Loyter, who carried out the study, was quoted as saying.

The study was published in the peer-reviewed British journal "AIDS Research and Therapy" in August and was co-authored by Loyter,

Aviad Levin, Zvi Hayouka, and Assaf Friedler.

The researchers could not be reached on Friday, a day off in Israel.

They have registered an Israeli patent but the treatment must still be tested on animals and humans, Haaretz said.

Around 33.4 million people suffer from the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) which causes AIDS. The vast majority, more than 30 million, live in low and middle-income countries, according to the World Health Organisation.

Promising new one-dose malaria drug discovered



WASHINGTON (AFP) — Researchers have discovered a promising new malaria drug with the potential to treat resistant strains of the deadly disease in a single dose, according to a study.

The drug could be ready for clinical trials as soon as later this year and appears to be more potent than currently used drugs, researchers said.

"We're very excited by the new compound," said study author Elizabeth Winzeler, a professor at the Scripps Research Institute and member of the Genomics Institute of the Novartis Research Foundation.

"It has a lot of encouraging features as a drug candidate, including an attractive safety profile and potential treatment in a single oral dose."

Current treatment methods require patients to take drugs between one and four times daily for three to seven days. Reducing the treatment to a single dose leaves less opportunity for the parasites to develop a resistance to the drug, researchers said.

There were approximately 247 million cases of malaria in 2008 which caused nearly one million deaths, mostly

among young children in Africa, according to the World Health Organization.

Malaria is contracted when people are bitten by mosquitoes infected with a parasite called Plasmodium.

It causes fever and vomiting and can quickly become life-threatening by disrupting the blood supply to vital organs.

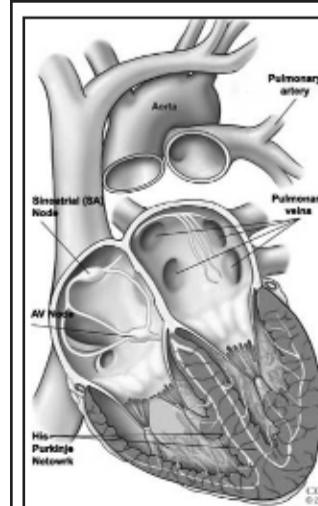
The parasites have developed resistance to a number of malaria medications in many parts of the world and it has been more than a decade since a new class of malaria drugs began to be widely used.

The drug was tested on mice infected with a strain of malaria that typically kills them within a week.

A single large dose of the drug cured all of the five infected mice which received it. Half of the six mice which received a smaller dose were cured and the cure rate rose to 90 percent when mice were given three doses of the smaller amount.

There has been little economic incentive for developing new malaria drugs because the disease primarily strikes in the world's most impoverished nations.

Tip: Heart Arrhythmia May Have Symptoms



Heart Arrhythmia May Have Symptoms

When the heart beats irregularly, it's called arrhythmia. In many cases, when the heart beats too fast, too slow or irregularly, there are no obvious warning signs, the University of Virginia Health System says. But you should contact your doctor without delay if you have any of these symptoms:

- * Feeling dizzy or lightheaded, or actually fainting.
- * Feeling like your heart is fluttering.

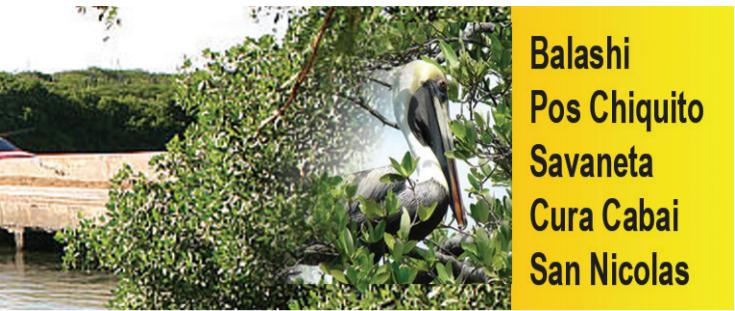
* Noticing that your heart has skipped a beat, or feeling an extra beat.

- * Feeling tired and weak.
- * Being short of breath.
- * Having chest pain.

Discover the Treasures Across the Bridge



View of the Spaan Lagoen



Balashi
Pos Chiquito
Savaneta
Cura Cabai
San Nicolas



The ruins of the gold smelter next to the Spaans Lagoen (Spanish Lagoon) and the Franse Pas (Frenchman's Pas)



Boca grande kitespot in San nicolas

Crossing the Balashi Bridge to San Nicolas, on the west coast, you will find the Spaans Lagoen (Spanish Lagoon).

The Spaans Lagoen is a small bay within the two km long and up to five hundred meters wide. By the tidal force has created a special ecosystem: a wetlands (wetlands). Wetlands are areas and between rural areas and wetlands have high biodiversity. Therefore, the inner bay of great importance for waterfowl and is also an important nursery for reef fish and crustaceans.

The Spaans Lagoen area flows into **Savaneta** is a fishing village in southeastern Aruba. Home to the oldest surviving home in Aruba, it is the

oldest town on that island and former capital. It was where the Dutch first settled after they recaptured it in 1816. It is said that Savaneta name became during the Spanish colonization in 1840. Savaneta means Sabana chikito (small savannah).

Heading east to San Nicolas you will encounter **Cura Cabai** located along the west coast of the island.

Driving further you will find Seroe Colorado. Seroe Colorado translates to "colorful hill." The name of the place refers to the 30 meters high of pure limestone at the endpoint in the east of Aruba. The hill got its name due to the brown yellowish color of the limestone.

San Nicolas was named after a man who owned of a

big piece of land there. This man was named Nicolaas van der Biest. In the early days owners of big piece of land are addressed by "Shon" with the first name after. So the people used to call him Shon Nicolaas. That later turned into San Nicolas. Some stories indicate that the Spanish influence had something to do with this.

Following east you will find **Seroe Colorado**. Seroe Colorado translates to "colorful hill." The name of the place refers to the 30 meters high of pure limestone at the endpoint in the east of Aruba. The hill got its name due to the brown yellowish color of the limestone.



Mangel Halto in Savaneta



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A must see while on Aruba!

The “Fontein Caves”



Around the world, tourists do a lot of site-seeing. That's the way they learn about other cultures and their histories. Aruba offers a great sanctuary to lay in the sun and get a tan, but there is much more to this small island.

One of the island's treasures are the "Fontein" caves located in Aruba's National Park, Parke Arikok.

Aruba has a lot of caves, some are small others very big, some are under the sea others above the sea, in some of them Indian drawings were found while in others only a few fos-

sils. Every cave has its own distinct uniqueness which sets it apart. The "Fontein" Cave (fountain cave) got this name because there is a spring water source in the cave. Years ago when there was no tap water the Aruban community got water out of the "Fontein" Cave. For safety they first boiled the water just to be sure the bacteria were killed. The area around the cave is very green because of the water as it is not only found inside the cave but also outside. It's nice to walk in the surrounding area where one can see the fishes in

the water, birds in the trees in complete serenity. The "Fontein" Cave was made by the power of the sea, a little bit strange when you see the sea 300 meters away from the cave. But Aruba has changed and is still changing, just like the whole world does.

The "Fontein" Cave is formed by coral, limestone and minerals. When visiting the cave you will think it is just formed by rocks, but once inside one can see how special it is as it changes all the time. In the cave there are a lot of bats, the long nose and long tong bat.

In the "Fontein" Cave Indian drawings were found, only at the beginning of the cave, meaning they used the cave only for protection against the weather. The drawings are probably made with iron oxide (extracted from coral) and from juice of the Brazilian tree. The rangers of Arikok National Park are protecting the drawings really good, because some of them have been completely damaged by the sea wind and humans. The cave is in a nature area, full of Aruba's flora and fauna. Sometimes the rangers catch snakes and they put them for a few days in a terrarium so tourists can see what lives on Aruba. You can visit the cave everyday from 9:30 a.m. till 4:15 p.m. And for the real cave freak, together with a ranger you can walk up to 250 meters into the cave.

"Fontein" Cave is one of Aruba natural wonders and is well worth a visit. Don't forget your camera!

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Kylie Minogue voted most inspirational breast cancer star

SYDNEY, Australia – Pop star Kylie Minogue has been voted the most inspirational breast cancer star for her willingness to speak openly and honestly about dealing with the disease. The Australian singer, 42, was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2005 and underwent surgery and hair-losing chemotherapy.

But Minogue, whose career began on the TV soap opera "Neighbours," returned to the stage within a year and continues to perform. She toured 21 countries last year, and just released her 11th studio album, "Aphrodite."

Minogue topped an online poll of 1,000 participants by British-based mastectomy-wear specialist Amoena, coming ahead of other celebrities affected by breast cancer like the late Linda McCartney and singer Olivia Newton-John.

"Kylie inspired many women to be more direct about their own fears, encouraging them to believe they would get through their ordeal," Amoena spokeswoman Rhoda White



said in a statement. "Undergoing a mastectomy can badly damage a woman's body confidence and self-image, and celebrities like Kylie play a vital role in raising public awareness." According to the American Cancer Society and the International Agency for Research on Cancer, 1.3 million new breast cancer cases are diagnosed around the world every year and it kills 465,000 women annually, making it the leading global cancer killer of women.

COMICS

PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



CROSSWORD

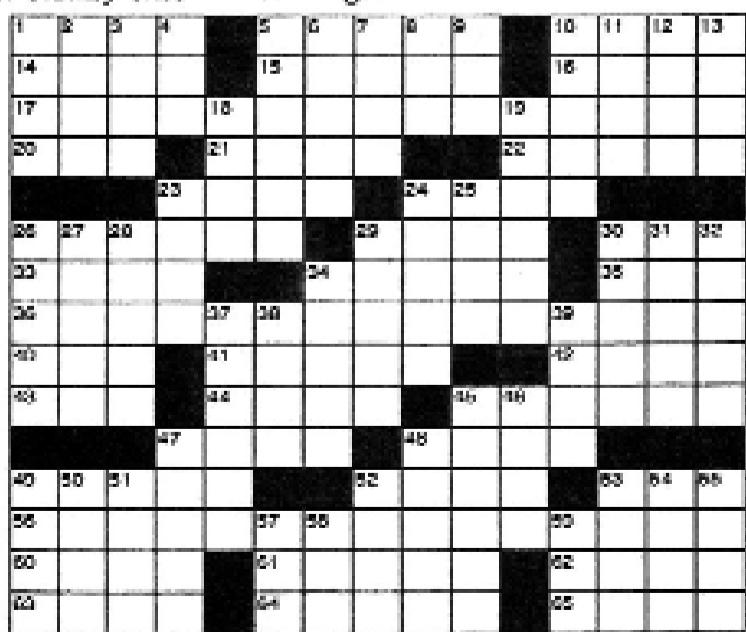
CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Guitar
- Fish basket
- Repose
- Tape: hyph.
- Tidal bore
- Region
- Needs no explanation: 3 wds.
- Suture
- Corrodees
- Woodwinds
- Listeners
- Two- cloth
- Granular
- Musician Alpert
- " ____ of La Mancha"
- Atlanta arena
- Board
- Spanish gold
- Wrapped up: 3 wds.
- Lubbock campus: abbr.
- Aromatic plants
- Overdue
- Idiot
- French Islands
- Bowling scores
- Mellows
- Noun suffix
- Fact
- Land division
- Ninecopoop
- Sure thing: 4 wds.
- Confront
- Ravines

ACROSS

- Swiss landmarks
- Thief's offering
- Wampum
- Big Bird's retreat
- Lip
- Church leader
- Once more
- Bag or caddy
- One of the Borgias
- Floots
- Vanities
- Transgress
- Garland
- Gave comfort
- Indian
- Kept back
- Chimney ones
- Swines
- Thief's offering
- Wampum
- Big Bird's retreat
- Parrot
- One of the chiefs
- Paddy's land
- Ministers to
- Minerals
- ____ Rica
- Forgets
- Breed of cattle
- Crow
- Dentist's concern
- Midge
- Protuberances
- Skins
- Puzzle
- Valley
- Winged
- Plucks a guitar
- Idyllist
- Kinfolk
- Hurt
- Major _____
- Barbequed
- ____ off (score)
- Bewildered
- Fire or white event
- Serpents
- Nuisance
- Catch
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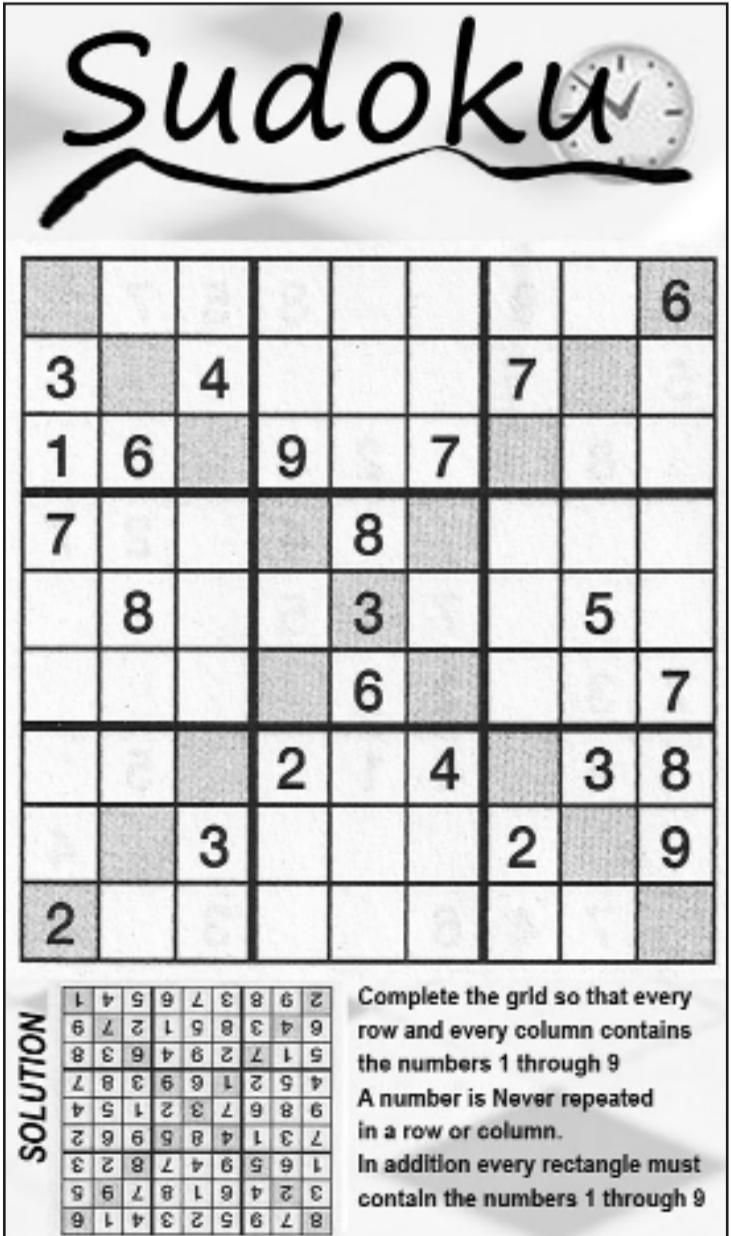
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6	4	3	8	5	1	2	7
5	1	7	2	9	4	6	3
4	5	2	1	6	9	3	8
9	8	6	7	3	2	4	1
7	3	1	4	9	5	9	6
1	6	5	9	4	7	8	2
3	2	4	6	1	8	7	9

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer**UN body sees Latam, Caribbean trade surge in 2010**

SANTIAGO, Chile -- Trade with Latin America and the Caribbean will surge in 2010, with exports seen rising 21.4 percent from a year earlier and imports up 17.1 percent as the region bounces back from global crisis, the United Nations economic body for Latin America said on Thursday.

The region's more dynamic domestic demand, ris-

ing investment and exports on the back of growing demand from Asia and the United States are helping trade take off this year.

"The best performance is seen in countries that export raw materials, while the recovery is slower in countries that import basic products and are dependent on tourism and remittances," the report said.

BP spill costs hit eight billion as crews unearth clues

WASHINGTON (AFP) - British oil giant BP revealed yesterday it has so far spent eight billion dollars to battle the Gulf of Mexico disaster, as its crews worked to retrieve key evidence from the seabed.

Robotic submarines recorded the delicate operation as engineers sought to raise a failed blowout preventer from the sunken rig to the surface and hand it over to the US Justice Department.

The US government is conducting what could be a criminal investigation into the April 20 explosion and subsequent oil spill and BP is hoping to shift some of the responsibility to its contractors.

The contractors include Transocean which leased the Deepwater Horizon rig off the Louisiana coast to BP and Halliburton which cemented the well.

BP's financial liability will soar if the government determines it was criminally negligent.

The British energy giant has forecast that the world's worst maritime oil spill will cost the group a total of about 32.2 billion dollars, after pushing it

into a record 16.9-billion-dollar loss in the second quarter.

The oil flow which spewed virtually unchecked into Gulf waters for weeks, was finally stemmed on July 15, after fouling a wide swathe of the southern coast. Eleven workers were also killed in the blast.

BP has vowed to meet the costs of the clean-up and compensation for residents hit hard by a fishing ban and the blow to the local tourist industry.

But a top executive warned yesterday that proposed US limits on offshore oil drilling could hurt BP's ability to pay for damages, prompting outrage from environmental groups.

David Nagle, executive vice president for BP America, told the New York Times that legislation before Congress could have an impact on the company's ability to compensate losses from the Deepwater Horizon disaster.

Of particular concern is a bill passed by the House of Representatives on July 30 which includes an amendment banning any company from receiving permits to drill on the Outer Continental Shelf if

more than 10 fatalities had occurred at its offshore or onshore facilities, or if it had numerous environmental violations.

BP is not mentioned by name in the legislation, but is the only company that currently meets that description.

"If we are unable to keep those (offshore) fields going, that is going to have a substantial impact on our cash flow," Nagle told the daily, and implementation of such a law "makes it harder for us to fund things, fund these programs" to pay damages.

The Times said BP executives are not backing away from a commitment to pay 20 billion dollars into an escrow fund over the next four years to pay damage claims and government penalties.

The company has also agreed to contribute 100 million dollars to a foundation to support rig workers who have lost their jobs and 500 million for a research program to study the impact of the spill.

But demands continue to rise on BP, the newspaper noted, including from states affected by the disaster.

Petrobras sells 64 bln dls of stock to fund oil exploration

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AFP) - Brazil's Petrobras unveiled one of the world's biggest share offerings yesterday, a sale of up to 64 billion dollars in new stock to finance oil exploration aimed at turning Brazil into one of the world's top 21st century oil exporters.

The transaction could be expanded to 74 billion dollars if there was heavy demand, the state-run company said.

The cash serves as the core of an ambitious plan Petrobras has already outlined to boost capital expenditure over the next five years to 224 billion

dollars as it seeks to tap potentially vast oil reserves discovered recently off the coast of Rio de Janeiro.

The 64-billion-dollar target for the new share offer represents a more than 40 percent increase in the company's capital, which on Thursday was estimated at 150 billion dollars.

Petrobras's share prices rose nearly three percent in early trade in Sao Paulo, confirming investor confidence in Brazil's outlook.

Analysts' predictions that the market could balk at the high price per barrel of oil Petrobras has agreed to pay the government in an oil-for-shares transaction to develop the offshore fields -- thus making its shares more expensive -- seemed confounded, at least initially.

The announcement would see 2.1 million common shares and 1.5 million preferred shares issued, the company said in a statement. The price of the new shares would be given September 23.

Existing shareholders -- including the government -- will have first access to the bulk of the shares.

Petrobras estimates the so-called subsalt fields offshore could more than triple its existing proven oil reserves of 14 billion barrels, catapulting Brazil into the top league of OPEC nations. Brazil is not a member of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries.

But to get at the black stuff, Petrobras will have to overcome a series of costly technological challenges unprecedented in the oil industry. The company, a world leader in deepwater oil exploration, is confident it will be able to do so.

President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's government has modified laws governing Brazil's oil sector and promoted greater state participation in Petrobras to ensure more sovereign rights to what appears to be an oil bonanza.

The government Wednesday agreed to exchange five billion barrels of oil in the newly discovered subsalt fields for more shares in Petrobras, of which it already holds 32 percent.

Petrobras announced it had discovered yet another reserve of light crude in deep offshore waters, estimated to contain 380 million barrels.

For snacking, sports events and fun! Buster's Garage in South Beach Center



Buster's Garage, a New York City landmark, made its way to Aruba about a year ago, and found a new home at the South Beach Center across from the Radisson Resort. Dedicated to the sports fanatic, the spacious but homey interior is the perfect place to keep up with your favorite team and have a great meal.

Fun for all the family, Buster's has typical sport bar fare such as chicken wings, quesadillas, calamari rings for

munching while watching the main event on 24 giant plasma screens. Every seat is good seat for catching all the action. Open from noon for lunch or dinner, it has plenty of distractions for the younger crowd, including foosball, and a video arcade, so Mom and Dad can relax and enjoy their meal.

The moderately priced menu includes all your favorite finger foods and a great selection of local and imported beers. Customer reviews gave

Buster's Garage 4.5 stars out of 5 on yellowpages-aruba.com; one declared "my wife and I happened to stumble upon it -but what a find!" Another stated "Owner Rusty is so down to earth. The food was very good and the prices were outstanding for the High-Rise area. Aruba needed a place like this."

Buster's regularly organizes special events with live music. At 10 p.m. it turns into a cozy adult hangout; 18 years and over only allowed, with a DJ on duty nightly and boasting the only beerpong table on Aruba. Aside from a great place to root for the home team or your favorites during playoffs and championships, they regularly carry all UFC fights & WWE events.

Buster's is a great place where island visitors and residents mix and mingle; Monday to Thursday they close at 2:00 am., weekends at 4:00 a.m.

by Rosalie Klein

Sasaki Apartments, the # 1 in specialty lodging



Sasaki Apartments is a pleasant complex of 24 studio apartments conveniently located in the residential area of Bubali and walking distance to Eagle Beach. Downtown, casinos, shops, supermarket and restaurants are just minutes away by car.

Calm and friendly atmosphere characterizes the apartment complex, with an invitation to enjoy a relaxing atmosphere in its different areas:

in the pool under the Caribbean sun, on the terrace reading a book, preparing a good barbecue by the pool, or in your apartment with total privacy and all amenities.

Sasaki Apartments has been recognized by trip advisor's users as the # 1 in specialty lodging in Noord and also has received a 100% recommendation of several reviews. This only encourages the management to keep improving and

giving the guests the very best service.

Whether you come to Aruba for business, family vacation or honeymoon, Sasaki Apartments is an excellent alternative for the quality of its facilities and its reasonable prices.

You can also visit our web site, join us on Facebook and Trip Advisor, so you can get more information about specials. Contact information: www.sasaki-apartments.com

Get ready to experience an adrenaline rush like no other Kite Surfing is an absolute thrill and the latest in extreme sports...



Kite surfing or kiteboarding

is a surface water sport that uses the wind to pull a rider through the water on a small surfboard or a kiteboard (similar to a wakeboard). Generally kiteboarding refers to a style of riding known as freestyle or wake-style, whereas kitesurfing is more "wave-riding" oriented. These two styles usually require different boards and specific performance kites.

A kitesurfer or kiteboarder uses a board with or without foot-straps or bindings, combined with the power of a large controllable kite to propel the rider and the board across the water. In 2006, the number of kitesurfers has been estimated at around 150,000 to 210,000, with 114,465 inflatable kites sold that same year.

The sport is becoming safer due to innovations in kite design, safety release systems, and instructions. Riding styles have evolved to suit riders and conditions, such as wakestyle, waveriding, freestyle, freeride,

jumping, and cruising.

Kitesurfing started on the island in 1998. Armando Wester, a professional windsurfer and certified instructor, and his buddies were the first ones to introduce Kitesurfing to the island of Aruba.

Since then, they have gotten more than 5,000 visitors and locals hooked on this new adrenaline rush sport.

Their years of experience, the trade winds on the island, the beautiful Caribbean Sea and the latest equipment make it an ideal and safe place for anyone to learn to kite. Kitesurfing is a hybrid of wakeboarding, hand-gliding and windsurfing for a radical new approach of kite power.

Anyone between the ages of 8 and 77 can enjoy this sport.

So don't hesitate to call Armando or visit him at the Fisherman's huts, just north of the Aruba Marriott Resort, and see for yourself what an exhilarating rush this sport really is.

Lessons start daily at 9 a.m., 12 noon or 3 p.m.

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In the heart of a Somali pirates' lair



HOBYO, Somalia (AFP) — Piracy off the coast of Somalia is booming despite a massive deployment of international warships, with an estimated combined cost of 40 million dollars a day.

NATO, the European Union, United States and other naval powers have sent warships to curb the hijacking of ships yet the number currently under the control of Somali pirates stands at 22, one of its highest ever levels.

Hundreds of suspected pirates have been captured but most had to be released immediately for lack of evidence.

On his first encounter with foreign journalists, Mohamed Garfanji, Somalia's top pirate boss, talks sparingly and has the edginess of a wanted man who never lowers his guard and is always planning his next move.

Speaking to AFP in the town of Wisil in central Somalia, he thumbs through his mobile phone picture gallery for shots he and his boys took of foreign tuna seiners off the coast of Hobyo, their nearby base.

"See this one? Only a few months ago, 20 miles from Hobyo... And this one, a big Spanish ship," Garfanji says, raising his eyebrows expectantly.

"Now your armies have sent their soldiers so you can continue to take our fish," he says, clenched fist and gold wrist watch sticking out of the sleeve of a warm dark blue bomber jacket.

These pirates were behind some of the most spectacular catches in modern piracy -- including the 2008 capture of a Ukrainian ship packed with tanks and weapons -- and at barely 30, Garfanji now runs a small army.

His is a Robin Hood narrative of Somali piracy as a struggle by dispossessed fishermen against vessels

from Europe and Asia violating Somalia's exclusive economic zone and poaching its abundant tuna under naval protection.

Three centuries before him, charismatic pirate Black Sam Bellamy railed against the powers "who rob the poor under the cover of the law" while "we plunder the rich under the protection of our own courage."

In Hobyo the following morning, one of his top lieutenants, Mohamed, stands on the beach, clutching his machine gun behind his neck like a balancing pole, ammunition belts snaking down from his shoulders.

The sand-charged wind blows his black-and-white checkered keffieh and cigarette smoke into his face as he squints at the imposing figure of a hijacked Korean supertanker anchored on the horizon.

"This one is bigger than Hobyo," he says proudly.

The Marshall Islands-flagged VLCC Samho Dream is a third of a kilometre long, one of three largest vessels ever hijacked by pirates, and carries an estimated 170 million dollars of Iraqi crude destined for the United States.

"Enough to buy the whole of Galkayo," Mohamed quips, in reference to the region's largest city, which straddles the border with the neighbouring semi-autonomous state of Puntland.

Fighting a losing battle against the sand that has already completely covered the old Italian port, Hobyo's scattering of rundown houses and shacks looks anything but the nerve centre of an activity threatening global shipping.

"We have no schools, no farming, no fishing. It's ground zero here," says chief local elder Abdullahi Ahmed Barre. "And our most pressing concern is the sand, the city is disappearing, we are being buried alive and can't resist."

"Leaning discreetly against the door frame, Garfanji is listening keenly.

Hobyo pirates have collected millions of dollars in ransoms over the past two years. They even have currency checking and counting

machines for the bags of air-dropped cash they receive.

Key players drive well-equipped Land Cruisers, have built new, slightly more stately houses and married more wives.

Yet Hobyo is anything but a booming town, so where does all the money go?

Residents say a significant portion of their income is lavished on post-ransom binges of khat, alcohol and prostitutes but the pirate leaders insist much of the cash is re-invested to expand.

"When we get more money, we recruit more," says Fathi Osman Kahir, a key Hobyo-based piracy "investor", who acts as a kind of pirate treasurer.

When a ship is hijacked, he pays for running costs such as increased onshore security, diesel for generators and basic supplies for captors and captives. When a ransom comes in, he takes the lion's share.

"There's up to 500 people working with us in Hobyo, that's 10 percent of the population and I'm just talking about the people on the ground... We have a hierarchy. What do you think we do? We pay wages too," he says.

A visit to Hobyo by the secretary of state for security of the fledgling local administration of Galmudug, Ismail Haji Noor, doesn't send the pirates scurrying into hiding.

A former military man and a successful businessman who spent half of his life in Britain, Noor is lobbying donors in Nairobi for elusive development aid he hopes could make the pirates lay down their grapnels.

"There is no difference between life and death if you have nothing to eat... Of course, what we do is criminal, it's undeniable. We don't love what we are doing but there is no choice," says Kahir.

While Noor would like to see Hobyo's pirate army turned into a legitimate defence force and a coastguard protecting Somali waters from both residual piracy and illegal fishing, foreign assistance has not been forthcoming.

Now the biannual intermonsoon season favourable to piracy is just around the corner and September may be too good to sit out even for the least committed of pirates.

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Indonesia's smoking toddler kicks habit



JAKARTA (AFP) — A two-year-old Indonesian boy who smoked about 40 cigarettes a day has kicked the habit after receiving intensive specialist care, a child welfare official said Thursday.

Ardi Rizal shocked the world when a video of him drawing heavily on cigarettes appeared on the Internet in May and drew attention to Indonesia's failure to regulate the tobacco industry.

"He has quit smoking and the most important thing is he doesn't ask for cigarettes anymore," national commission for child protection secretary-general Arist Merdeka Sirait told AFP.

Six months after his father gave him his first cigarette, the overweight boy was smoking two packs a day and

threw violent tantrums if his addiction was not satisfied.

Accompanied by his mother, the boy left his village on Sumatra island in July to undergo treatment in the capital.

"He received psychosocial therapy for one month, during which therapists kept him busy with activities and encouraged him to play with kids of the same age," Sirait said.

"We diverted his addiction from cigarettes to playing."

Ardi's case has highlighted the tobacco industry's aggressive marketing to women and children in developing countries like Indonesia, where regulations are weak and many people do not know that smoking is dangerous.

Sirait said the government had given financial support to Ardi's parents, who were ignorant of smoking's dangers and used cigarettes to keep the toddler happy as they worked long hours at a street market.

"Ardi was very happy when he left Jakarta this morning as he has really missed his father in the village," Sirait said.

Cigarette consumption in the Southeast Asian archipelago of some 240 million people soared 47 percent in the 1990s, according to the World Health Organization.

Spain sparkle, England impress, defeat for France



PARIS (AFP) - Spain made an impressive start to their quest for an historic treble in the opening salvoes in Euro 2012 qualifying on Friday, which saw wins for England, Holland and Germany but defeat for France.

Spain are seeking to become the first country in history to annex a World Cup and two European titles.

And Vicente del Bosque's men, in their first competitive outing since scaling football's global summit at Soccer City in July, swept aside little Liechtenstein, ranked 141 places below them in FIFA's rankings, 4-0 in Vaduz.

Liverpool forward Fernando Torres, who failed to score in South Africa, rediscovered his touch with a double, the rout completed by the two Davids, Villa and Silva.

Holland, defeated 1-0 by Spain in the World Cup final, were also quick out of the blocks on the long road to Ukraine and Poland, Bert van Marwijk's Oranje dishing out a 5-0 beating to minnows San Marino.

Torres's Liverpool teammate Dirk Kuyt set the Dutch on their way with an early penalty, with Klaas-Jan Huntelaar's hat-trick and veteran Ruud van Nistelrooy's injury-time strike rounding off their five-star performance.

At Wembley, England,

desperately disappointing in South Africa, went some way on the road to redemption with a sparkling 4-0 rout of Bulgaria.

Jermain Defoe's treble and Adam Johnson's first goal for the Three Lions will have helped relieve the mounting pressure on coach Fabio Capello.

Key to the win was a revitalised Wayne Rooney, who has shaken off the lethargy that had gripped him at the World Cup, conjuring up three assists.

Germany, who so cruelly exposed England at the World Cup, where they finished third, eked out a 1-0 win over Belgium in Brussels.

Evergreen striker Miroslav Klose's 53rd international goal secured the three Group A points for Joachim Loew's side.

Despite the win Germany are lying second to Guus Hiddink's Turkey, 3-0 winners in Kazakhstan.

World Cup flops France entered their post-Raymond Domenech era in the same way they had left it, with a defeat -- new manager Laurent Blanc's competitive debut resulting in a 1-0 home loss to Belarus.

In Tallinn, Estonia had 2006 world champions Italy running scared, with Sergei Zenjov giving them a shock early lead. But the Azzurri, under new management after their own failed World Cup defence, turned the game in three second-half minutes with goals from Antonio Cassano and Leonardo Bonucci to escape with a 2-1 win.

It was Italy's first win of 2010 and first success in eight matches.

Elsewhere Greece, shock winners of Euro 2004 in Portugal, came from behind for a 1-1 home draw against Georgia and the Republic of Ireland put the misery of losing out on a World Cup place behind them with a gritty 1-0 win in Armenia.

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Scotland began their campaign with a goalless draw in Lithuania, Wales came unstuck 1-0 in Montenegro, while Northern Irish eyes were smiling after a 1-0 win in Slovenia.

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Sixth seed Schiavone pulls a "Federer" in US Open win



NEW YORK (AFP) - French Open champion Francesca Schiavone advanced to the fourth round of the US Open on Friday by defeating Ukraine's 29th-seeded Alona

Bondarenko 6-1, 7-5.

The Italian sixth seed will play for a berth in the quarter-finals against Russian 20th seed Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, who earlier ousted

Day, Johnson share lead as Woods struggles

BOSTON (AFP) - Zach Johnson and Jason Day beat the rain Friday to share the clubhouse lead in the first round of the Deutsche Bank Championship.

Johnson gave US Ryder Cup captain Corey Pavin more reasons to select him as he made the most of good scoring conditions at the TPC Boston to post an eight-under par 63.

He and Australia's Day - who had 10 birdies and two bogeys - finished ahead of the storms spawned by Hurricane Earl that stopped play early in the afternoon.

Early starters had a clear advantage as they set off before the rain set in, but still played lift, clean and place to insure the same rules were in effect throughout the round regardless of the weather.

"There's a lot of deep scores out there," Day said. "It was out there today. Hopefully, this thing can blow through and not hit us too hard. But I'll probably try and put his round behind me and just focus on the next round."

The weather delay came as Tiger Woods was one-over and when play resumed his struggles continued.

Woods, who teed off on 10, had four bogeys in his first six holes.

He battled back through the intermittent afternoon rain to post a one-over 72 that left

him nine adrift.

"I just didn't have it today," said Woods, who struggled to find a fairway. "I wasn't really doing what I was supposed to be doing out there swing-wise, and then wasn't releasing the blade out there and was dragging it a little bit. It was a bad day all round."

Should he miss the cut, Woods wouldn't make it to the third round of the playoffs next week.

"I'm going to have to shoot something good tomorrow, hopefully move up a little bit," Woods said. "Obviously, get off to a better start than I did today."

Once again this week Woods' world number one ranking is on the line, and this time Phil Mickelson isn't the only player capable of moving to the top.

According to early projections from the Official World Golf Ranking, Steve Stricker has a slim chance of becoming number one for the first time in his career if he were to win and Woods finished out of the top nine and Mickelson was out of top three.

Also at stake for Woods is a last chance to impress Pavin and gain a place on the US Ryder Cup team.

Pavin is scheduled to name his squad, including four captain's picks, on Tuesday.

Johnson's opening 63 did

Argentina's Gisela Dulko.

Schiavone swatted a "Roger Federer shot", between the legs while running away from the net, in the 10th game of the second set, recovering from the move in time for a forehand winner off the return on her way to holding at love.

Federer famously made the shot in a US Open semi-final victory over Novak Djokovic last year and struck a similar shot in his first-round victory over Argentina's Brian Dabul on Monday.

Schiavone broke Bondarenko in the 11th game of the second set and held at love to complete the victory after 88 minutes.

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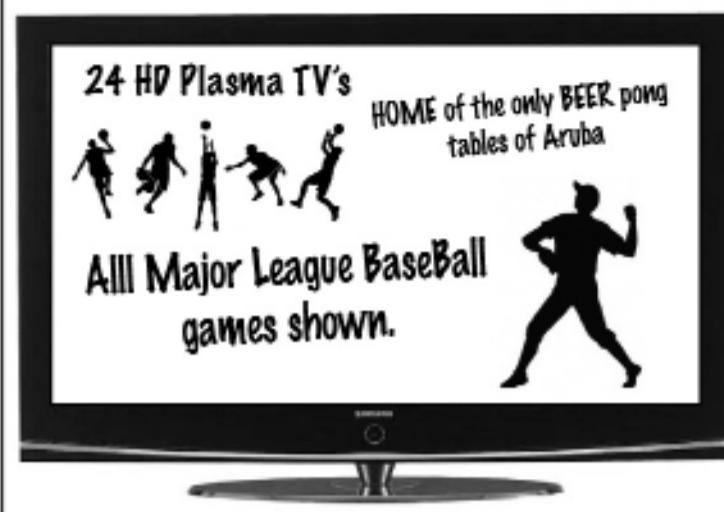
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Morgan banned eight games for role in brawl

NEW YORK (AFP) - Washington outfielder Nyjer Morgan was handed an eight-game suspension for his role in a brawl during a game against Florida along with other recent incidents that provoked the ire of Major League Baseball.

MLB officials outlined punishments Friday for six players, both managers and a coach after reviewing the events that occurred in Wednesday's Nationals-Marlins game.

For the Marlins, pitcher Chris Volstad received a six-game suspension. Pitcher Alex Sanabia was suspended for five games, first baseman Gaby Sanchez for three, and manager Edwin Rodriguez for one game.

Pitcher Jose Veras received a fine.

Nationals pitcher Doug Slaten was suspended for three games. Manager Jim Riggleman was suspended for two games, and third base coach Pat Listach for three.

But Morgan, who was already in the midst of appealing a seven-game suspension meted out after he threw a ball at a fan in the stands in Philadelphia, was the focus.

Officials said his punishment addressed not only Wednesday's contest but an incident on Saturday when he ran over St. Louis Cardinals catcher Bryan Anderson in the bottom of the eighth inning at Nationals Park, even though Anderson didn't have the ball.

Morgan neglected to touch home plate in the process and was called out.

On Tuesday, Morgan ran over another catcher, this time Florida's Brett Hayes, while attempting to score from second on a ground ball in the 10th inning.

Hayes clung to the ball and tagged Morgan out, but separated his left shoulder on the play.

The Nationals expected retaliation on Wednesday, and they got it.

Volstad hit Morgan with a pitch in the fourth inning, but Morgan promptly answered by stealing second and third, even though the Nationals were trailing 14-3.

Volstad then threw his first pitch of the sixth behind Morgan, setting off a fight.

Morgan charged the mound took a swing at Volstad.

Pacquiao shrugs off Mayweather rant, eyes Margarito



DALLAS (AFP) - Manny Pacquiao shrugged off Floyd Mayweather Jnr's online video rant against him as an "uneducated message" on Friday as the Filipino fighter continued to tout his November bout with Antonio Margarito.

"I just heard about that, but I didn't see the video," Pacquiao said of the short clip posted on the internet, in which Mayweather unleashes a sometimes racist and expletive-filled tirade slamming Pacquiao, a newly elected congressman in the Philippines.

In the video, Mayweather renews his accusation that Pacquiao used performance-enhancing drugs -- a charge that prompted Pacquiao to sue him when Mayweather made the claim during failed negotiations to put together a bout.

"It's a really cheap low blow, but again, consider where it came from," said Pacquiao's trainer Freddie Roach. "We tried to fight him. He said no. He doesn't want to fight."

Pundits have predicted a fight between unbeaten Mayweather and pound-for-pound king Pacquiao could be the richest in boxing history.

When the two couldn't reach a deal in January, Pacquiao fought Joshua Clottey, defeating him in March at Cowboys Stadium.

When negotiations broke down again in recent months,

Pacquiao turned his attention to Margarito.

The two will fight for a vacant junior middleweight title on November 13 at Cowboys Stadium, the billion-dollar home of the Dallas Cowboys NFL team.

It's not clear when the Mayweather video was made, but it appeared online this week as Pacquiao and Margarito conducted a three-city tour promoting their bout.

After stops in Los Angeles and New York, the tour ended on Friday at Cowboys Stadium.

Pacquiao, 31, said he's only planning a couple more fights before retiring from the ring and he indicated it wouldn't matter to him if he doesn't face Mayweather.

"I'm not looking for that fight," said Pacquiao, who boasts a record of 51-3-2 with 38 knockouts. "I'm satisfied with what I've done in boxing already."

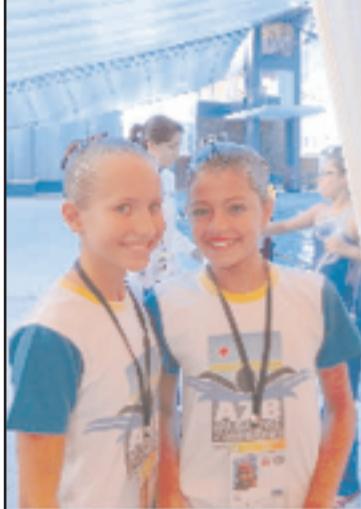
Still, the seven-division champion said earlier this week that he would take on Mayweather if the fight could be put together.

For now, Pacquiao is focused on Mexico's Margarito, who last fought in the United States in January 2009. He was suspended for one year because a plaster-like substance was found in his hand wraps before fighting Shane Mosley.

Margarito, who owns a record of 38-6 with 27 knockouts, was denied a license to fight in California and Nevada before Texas boxing authorities approved his application.

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Aruba in 4th place after preliminary round at Synchro Swimming Youth Panamerican Games



Yesterday the Synchro Youth Panamerican Games kicked off in Peru. Aruba started off to a good start by positioning themselves in position four in solo as well as duets.

Going up against 17 other soloist from the Panamerican continent, Kyra Hoevertsz presented a striking performance, leaving the majority of her opponents behind.

Teen titans era over for Slam titles, Clijsters says

NEW YORK (AFP) - Once upon a time, teenage girls were winning Grand Slam titles and dominating rivals with speed and shotmaking precision.

Then came Serena and Venus Williams, bringing powerful serves and a more physical game that has so far produced 13 Grand Slam titles for younger sister Serena, seven more for Venus and an

end to the era of the teen titans.

Defending US Open champion Kim Clijsters placed a verbal tombstone on the phenomenon after a third-round victory Friday, saying coming of age in the time of the Williams sisters enabled her to adapt, over time, to the power change.

A new generation of young stars has risen to fight the trend, with US Open top

seed Caroline Wozniacki reaching last year's final at 19 and Belgian Yanina Wickmayer a US Open semi-finalist last year at 18.

But even with girls maturing faster in the 21st Century, the transition from high school prodigy to Grand Slam champion requires more time than before, Clijsters said.

"A lot of girls outside the sport, just regular girls, are developing a lot faster," Clijsters said. A decade ago, Swiss Martina Hingis was coming off a run of five Grand Slam titles by age 18 and the world number one ranking at age 16 in 1997.

But when the Williams sisters reached their prime and several rivals rose to the challenge, Hingis struggled with injuries and the evolution of the sport.

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